

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): Apparatus comprising:

a base formed with upper and lower sides, the lower side of the base having a lower surface ~~that is substantially flat such that~~, the lower surface being substantially flat in its entirety so that the apparatus when placed on a flat reading stand or table is stably supported;

a support connected to the upper side of the base;

an adjuster on the upper side of the base for selectively collapsing the support downwardly relative to the base so that the apparatus can support writing material and function as a clipboard; or propping the support in an upwardly extended position relative to the base so that the apparatus can support reading material and function as a reading stand;

at least one compartment for holding miscellaneous items;

means for selectively opening or closing the compartment;

and a light for illuminating the writing or reading material;

wherein the light can be retracted or extended and the apparatus when collapsed is substantially rectangular in plan view.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the base is substantially rectangular.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the support is substantially rectangular.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the adjuster comprises a hinge for pivoting the support relative to the base.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the adjuster further comprises a stay arm extending between the base and the support for holding the support at a desired angle relative to the base.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the stay arm is pivotally connected to one of the base and the support at a fixed position and to the other of the base and the support at a position that can be varied to adjust the angle of the support relative to the base.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising a device connected to the apparatus for securing writing material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the securing device comprises a spring-loaded clip.

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising a stalk connected to the apparatus for mounting the light.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the stalk is pivotally mounted on the apparatus.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the stalk is telescoping.

Claim 13 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the light is pivotally mounted on the stalk.

Claim 14 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising a page holder for holding reading material open at a desired page.

Claim 15 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the page holder comprises a pair of spaced-apart spring-loaded tabs engageable with the reading material.

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the first compartment is for holding a writing implement and the second compartment is for holding paper.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Apparatus comprising:

a base formed with upper and lower sides, the lower side of the base having a lower surface ~~that is substantially flat such that~~, the lower surface being substantially flat in its entirety so that the apparatus when placed on a flat reading stand or table is stably supported;

a support connected to the upper side of the base;

an adjuster on the upper side of the base for selectively collapsing the support downwardly relative to the base so that the apparatus can support writing material and function as a clipboard; or extending the support upwardly relative to the base so that the apparatus can support reading material and function as a reading stand;

a light for illuminating the writing or reading material;

wherein the light can be retracted or extended and the apparatus when collapsed is substantially rectangular in plan view;

further comprising first and second compartments for holding miscellaneous items;

and first and second lids respectively closing the first and second compartments, and first and second hinges respectively mounting the first and second lids and enabling

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opening of the first and second lids for access to the first and second compartments.